

**ABSTRACT**

Compositions and methods are provided for inhibiting the  
5 expression of human tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ ). Antisense  
oligonucleotides targeted to nucleic acids encoding TNF- $\alpha$  are  
preferred. Methods of using these oligonucleotides for  
inhibition of TNF- $\alpha$  expression and for treatment of diseases,  
particularly inflammatory and autoimmune diseases, associated  
10 with overexpression of TNF- $\alpha$  are provided.